

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC DRAFT DIRECTIVE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 484, (B) 75 EC BRUSSELS 11506, (C) 75
EC BRUSSELS 9356

1. COMMISSION AND PERMREP CONTACTS TELL US THAT THE PACE OF WORK ON THE EC DRAFT DIRECTIVE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT WILL BE SPEEDING UP. THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) WILL MEET ON FEBRUARY 18 AND MARCH 2 TO DISCUSS THE REMAINING ISSUES AND TRY TO RESOLVE THEM. THE SCENARIO THEN HAS THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, PERHAPS IN APRIL, EITHER FORMALIZING AN AGREEMENT REACHED AT COREPER OR DECIDING ISSUES COREPER COULDN'T SETTLE. THE COMMISSION AND THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY ARE PREPARING A COMPROMISE PACKAGE FOR THE FEBRUARY 18 MEETING.

2. THE REMAINING ISSUES ARE: TREATMENT OF THIRD-COUNTRY GOODS, INCLUSION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND DATA PROCESSING, THE THRESHOLD, AND PREFERENTIAL TENDERING CONDITIONS IN CERTAIN MEMBER STATES, I.E., REGIONAL PREFERENCES FOR ITALY AND GERMANY (SEE REFTEL C). AN EC COUNCIL NOTE SUMMARIZING MEMBER STATE POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES WAS POUCHED TO EUR/RPE BRESLER AND STR POMERANZ ON FEBRUARY 2.

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3. ALTHOUGH COMMISSION OPTIMISM SHOULD BE TREATED WITH
SOME RESERVE, A COMMISSION OFFICIAL WORKING ON THE DRAFT
DIRECTIVE FELT CONFIDENT THAT THE MEMBER STATES WERE READY
TO REACH COMPROMISES AND A FINAL AGREEMENT WAS IN THE AIR. MORRIS

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